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8 The Honorable Michelle L. Peterson
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

ALEC BYRNE,

11 Plaintiff,
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26 v.

GETTY IMAGES (US), INC.; GLENN A.
BAKER; JOHN DOES 1-50,

Defendants.

CASE NO. 2:25-cv-00186-MLP

**~~PROPOSED~~ STIPULATED
PROTECTIVE ORDER**

1. **PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS**

Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential, proprietary, or private information for which special protection may be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the court to enter the following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this agreement is consistent with LCR 26(c). It does not confer blanket protection on all disclosures or responses to discovery, the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles, and it does not presumptively entitle parties to file confidential information under seal.

1 This stipulation is not an agreement that any particular document or category of documents
 2 is discoverable, but is intended to protect only those documents that are produced and which are
 3 entitled to protection.

4 2. **“CONFIDENTIAL” MATERIAL**

5 “Confidential” material shall include the following documents and tangible things
 6 produced or otherwise exchanged: (1) any financial records; (2) any sensitive customer or client
 7 information; (3) any personal data identifiers as specified in LCR 5.2; (4) any material that is
 8 subject to a contractual or other duty of confidentiality owed by the client to a third party; and (5)
 9 any material that counsel determines reasonably and in good faith is necessary to protect the
 10 interests of the client because it is proprietary or otherwise sensitive and nonpublic business
 11 information.

12 3. **SCOPE**

13 The protections conferred by this agreement cover not only confidential material (as
 14 defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted from confidential material; (2) all
 15 copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of confidential material; and (3) any testimony,
 16 conversations, or presentations by parties or their counsel that might reveal confidential material.

17 However, the protections conferred by this agreement do not cover information that is in
 18 the public domain or becomes part of the public domain through trial or otherwise.

19 4. **ACCESS TO AND USE OF CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL**

20 4.1 **Basic Principles.** A receiving party may use confidential material that is disclosed
 21 or produced by another party or by a non-party in connection with this case only for prosecuting,
 22 defending, or attempting to settle this litigation. Confidential material may be disclosed only to the
 23 categories of persons and under the conditions described in this agreement. Confidential material
 24 must be stored and maintained by a receiving party at a location and in a secure manner that ensures
 25 that access is limited to the persons authorized under this agreement.

26 4.2 **Disclosure of “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items.** Unless otherwise ordered

1 by the court or permitted in writing by the designating party, a receiving party may disclose any
2 confidential material only to:

3 (a) the receiving party's counsel of record in this action, as well as employees
4 of counsel to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for this litigation;

5 (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including in house counsel) of the
6 receiving party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation, unless the parties
7 agree that a particular document or material produced is for Attorney's Eyes Only and is so
8 designated;

9 (c) experts and consultants to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this
10 litigation and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A);

11 (d) the court, court personnel, and court reporters and their staff;

12 (e) copy or imaging services retained by counsel to assist in the duplication of
13 confidential material, provided that counsel for the party retaining the copy or imaging service
14 instructs the service not to disclose any confidential material to third parties and to immediately
15 return all originals and copies of any confidential material;

16 (f) during their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is
17 reasonably necessary and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound"
18 (Exhibit A), unless otherwise agreed by the designating party or ordered by the court. Pages of
19 transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal confidential material must
20 be separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted
21 under this agreement;

22 (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a
23 custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information; and

24 (h) insurance carriers and their claims representatives, for the purpose of
25 analyzing and valuing the potential claim, so long as they have signed Exhibit A.

4.3 Filing Confidential Material. Before filing confidential material or discussing or

1 referencing such material in court filings, the filing party shall confer with the designating party,
 2 in accordance with Local Civil Rule 5(g)(3)(A), to determine whether the designating party will
 3 remove the confidential designation, whether the document can be redacted, or whether a motion
 4 to seal or stipulation and proposed order is warranted. During the meet and confer process, the
 5 designating party must identify the basis for sealing the specific confidential information at issue,
 6 and the filing party shall include this basis in its motion to seal, along with any objection to sealing
 7 the information at issue. Local Civil Rule 5(g) sets forth the procedures that must be followed and
 8 the standards that will be applied when a party seeks permission from the court to file material
 9 under seal. A party who seeks to maintain the confidentiality of its information must satisfy the
 10 requirements of Local Civil Rule 5(g)(3)(B), even if it is not the party filing the motion to seal.
 11 Failure to satisfy this requirement will result in the motion to seal being denied, in accordance with
 12 the strong presumption of public access to the Court's files.

13 Where there is a challenge to the designation of a document as Confidential, all parties
 14 shall continue to maintain the material in question as Confidential until the Court rules on the
 15 challenge.

16 4.4 Designation as “FOR ATTORNEY’S EYES ONLY”: A party may designate
 17 information as “ATTORNEY’S EYES ONLY” only if, in the good faith belief of such party and
 18 its counsel, the information is among that considered to be most sensitive by the party, including
 19 but not limited to financial information, trade secrets, or other sensitive and previously undisclosed
 20 research, development, financial or other commercial information that is wholly unrelated to the
 21 claims or defenses in suit and for which the “Confidential” designation is not sufficient because
 22 the designating party has a good faith belief that disclosure of the information to the receiving
 23 party would cause damage to its business. Under no circumstance should information designated
 24 “ATTORNEY’S EYES ONLY” be disclosed to the receiving party.

25 (a) Information designated “ATTORNEY’S EYES ONLY” may be viewed
 26 only by:

- (i) Counsel (as defined in paragraph 4.2(a)) of the receiving party,
- (ii) Court officials involved in this action (including court reporters, persons operating video recording equipment at depositions, and any special master appointed by the Court),

(iii) Any person designated by the Court in the interest of justice, upon such terms as the Court may deem proper,

(iv) Any outside expert employed by counsel of record, provided that review of the information is reasonably necessary for the development and presentation of that party's case, and only where the expert has signed the "Acknowledgement and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A), and

(v) Any witness during the course of discovery who was an author, recipient, or otherwise involved in the creation of the document, provided that it is clear from the face of the document marked with the “ATTORNEY’S EYES ONLY” designation that the witness being shown or asked about the document was an author, recipient, or otherwise involved in the creation of the document. Where it is not stated on the face of the confidential document being disclosed that the witness was either an author, recipient, or otherwise involved in the creation of the document, the party seeking disclosure may nonetheless disclose the confidential document to the witness, provided that: the party seeking disclosure has a reasonable basis for believing the witness in fact prepared, received, or reviewed the document, the party seeking disclosure provides advance notice to the party that produced the document, and the party that produced the document does not inform the party seeking disclosure that the person to whom the party intends to disclose the document did not in fact prepare, receive, or review the document. Nothing herein shall prevent disclosure at deposition of a document designated “ATTORNEY’S EYES ONLY” to the officers, directors, or managerial level employees of the party who produced the document.

1 5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

2 5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection. Each party
 3 or non-party that designates information or items for protection under this agreement must take
 4 care to limit any such designation to specific material that qualifies under the appropriate
 5 standards. The designating party must designate for protection only those parts of material,
 6 documents, items, or oral or written communications that qualify, so that other portions of the
 7 material, documents, items, or communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept
 8 unjustifiably within the ambit of this agreement.

9 Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations that are
 10 shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper purpose (e.g., to
 11 unnecessarily encumber or delay the case development process or to impose unnecessary expenses
 12 and burdens on other parties) expose the designating party to sanctions.

13 If it comes to a designating party's attention that information or items that it designated for
 14 protection do not qualify for protection, the designating party must promptly notify all other parties
 15 that it is withdrawing the mistaken designation.

16 5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in this
 17 agreement (see, e.g., second paragraph of section 5.2(b) below), or as otherwise stipulated or
 18 ordered, disclosure or discovery material that qualifies for protection under this agreement must
 19 be clearly so designated before or when the material is disclosed or produced.

20 (a) Information in documentary form: (e.g., paper or electronic documents and
 21 deposition exhibits, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial proceedings),
 22 the designating party must affix the word "CONFIDENTIAL" to each page that contains
 23 confidential material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies for protection,
 24 the producing party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate
 25 markings in the margins).

9 (c) Other tangible items: the producing party must affix in a prominent place
10 on the exterior of the container or containers in which the information or item is stored the word
11 "CONFIDENTIAL." If only a portion or portions of the information or item warrant protection,
12 the producing party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the protected portion(s).

13 5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent failure to
14 designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the designating party's
15 right to secure protection under this agreement for such material. Upon timely correction of a
16 designation, the receiving party must make reasonable efforts to ensure that the material is treated
17 in accordance with the provisions of this agreement.

18 || 6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

19 6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any party or non-party may challenge a designation of
20 confidentiality at any time. Unless a prompt challenge to a designating party's confidentiality
21 designation is necessary to avoid foreseeable, substantial unfairness, unnecessary economic
22 burdens, or a significant disruption or delay of the litigation, a party does not waive its right to
23 challenge a confidentiality designation by electing not to mount a challenge promptly after the
24 original designation is disclosed.

25 6.2 Meet and Confer. The parties must make every attempt to resolve any dispute
26 regarding confidential designations without court involvement. Any motion regarding confidential

1 designations or for a protective order must include a certification, in the motion or in a declaration
 2 or affidavit, that the movant has engaged in a good faith meet and confer conference with other
 3 affected parties in an effort to resolve the dispute without court action. The certification must list
 4 the date, manner, and participants to the conference. A good faith effort to confer requires a face-
 5 to-face meeting or a telephone conference.

6 6.3 Judicial Intervention. If the parties cannot resolve a challenge without court
 7 intervention, the designating party may file and serve a motion to retain confidentiality under Local
 8 Civil Rule 7 (and in compliance with Local Civil Rule 5(g), if applicable). The burden of
 9 persuasion in any such motion shall be on the designating party. Frivolous challenges, and those
 10 made for an improper purpose (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on
 11 other parties) may expose the challenging party to sanctions. All parties shall continue to maintain
 12 the material in question as confidential until the court rules on the challenge. If no motion to retain
 13 confidentiality is filed within fourteen (14) days of the parties' meet and confer conference, the
 14 designation shall be deemed waived.

15 7. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN OTHER
 16 LITIGATION

17 If a party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that compels
 18 disclosure of any information or items designated in this action as "CONFIDENTIAL," that party
 19 must:

20 (a) promptly notify the designating party in writing and include a copy of the
 21 subpoena or court order;

22 (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to
 23 issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or order is
 24 subject to this agreement. Such notification shall include a copy of this agreement; and

25 (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued by
 26 the designating party whose confidential material may be affected.

1 8. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

2 If a receiving party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed confidential
 3 material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this agreement, the receiving
 4 party must immediately (a) notify in writing the designating party of the unauthorized disclosures,
 5 (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the protected material, (c) inform the
 6 person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this agreement,
 7 and (d) request that such person or persons execute the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be
 8 Bound” that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

9 9. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE PROTECTED
 10 MATERIAL

11 When a producing party gives notice to receiving parties that certain inadvertently
 12 produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligations of the
 13 receiving parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision
 14 is not intended to modify whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery order or
 15 agreement that provides for production without prior privilege review. The parties agree to the
 16 entry of a non-waiver order under Fed. R. Evid. 502(d) as set forth herein.

17 10. NON TERMINATION AND RETURN OF DOCUMENTS

18 Within 60 days after the termination of this action, including all appeals, each receiving
 19 party must return all confidential material to the producing party, including all copies, extracts and
 20 summaries thereof. Alternatively, the parties may agree upon appropriate methods of destruction.

21 Notwithstanding this provision, counsel are entitled to retain one archival copy of all
 22 documents filed with the court, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts, correspondence,
 23 deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert work
 24 product, even if such materials contain confidential material.

25 The confidentiality obligations imposed by this agreement shall remain in effect until a
 26 designating party agrees otherwise in writing or a court orders otherwise.

1 IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.
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4 DATED: March 25, 2025
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7 MCCULLOCH KLEINMAN LAW
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28 *Attorneys for Defendant Getty Images (US),
29 Inc.*

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35 PURSUANT TO STIPULATION, IT IS SO ORDERED

36 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that pursuant to Fed. R. Evid. 502(d), the production of any
37 documents, electronically stored information (ESI) or other information, whether inadvertent or
38 otherwise, in this proceeding shall not, for the purposes of this proceeding or any other federal or
39 state proceeding, constitute a waiver by the producing party of any privilege applicable to those
40 documents, including the attorney-client privilege, attorney work-product protection, or any other
41 privilege or protection recognized by law. This Order shall be interpreted to provide the maximum
42 protection allowed by Fed. R. Evid. 502(d). The provisions of Fed. R. Evid. 502(b) do not apply.
43 Nothing contained herein is intended to or shall serve to limit a party's right to conduct a review
44 of documents, ESI or other information (including metadata) for relevance, responsiveness and/or
45 segregation of privileged and/or protected information before production. Information

1 inadvertently produced in discovery that is protected as privileged or work product shall be
2 immediately returned to the producing party.

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4 DATED this 26th day of March, 2025.

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7 MICHELLE L. PETERSON
8 United States Magistrate Judge
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EXHIBIT A

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

3 I, _____ [print or type full name], of
4 _____ [print or type full address], declare under penalty of
5 perjury that I have read in its entirety and understand the Stipulated Protective Order that was
6 issued by the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington on _____
7 _____, 2025, in the case of *Byrne v Getty Images (US), Inc., et al.*, Case No. 2:25-cv-
8 00186-MLP . I agree to comply with and to be bound by all the terms of this Stipulated Protective
9 Order and I understand and acknowledge that failure to so comply could expose me to sanctions
10 and punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any manner
11 any information or item that is subject to this Stipulated Protective Order to any person or entity
12 except in strict compliance with the provisions of this Order.

13 I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the
14 Western District of Washington for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this Stipulated Protective
15 Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this action.

16 || Date:

17 | City and State where sworn and signed:

18 Printed name:

19 || Signature: